

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-21 are allowed and that claims 29, 30 and 32 contain allowable subject matter.

The limitations of claims 29 and 30 have been incorporated in claim 22. Claim 22 has also been amended to recite "using a computer" in at least one method step, as suggested by the Office action (pg. 10).¹ Hence claim 22 as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 23-28, which depend on claim 22 and incorporate all of the limitations thereof, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102 and 103 thereon are believed to overcome.² No further response on this matter is believed to be necessary.

Also, claim 32 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Office action. Likewise, claims 23-28 and 31 have been reproduced as new claims 32-39 to retain a scope of coverage which would be commensurate with incorporating claim 31 into claim 22.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for establishing the publication date of the Hoeting reference.

As the amendment does not raise new issues or require further consideration and/or search, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendment.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's

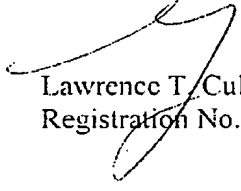
¹ This amendment was made for claims 1, 5 and 16 in Applicants previous response but was inadvertently omitted for claim 22. The previous rejections under §101 were withdrawn in response to the amendment.

² Applicant notes that claims 22-28 and 31 were not previously rejected under prior art. Applicant respectfully traverses the final rejections but has incorporated allowable dependent claims 29 and 30 into claim 22 and rewritten claim 32 into allowable form to expedite the prosecution and obtain allowance of the application.

amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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